



SPRING 2009

The winter at Hazeldean has once again proved trying however we are hopefully heading out of the woods now with a few useful falls this month and more predicted for the next day or so. The old adage that its not so much what you get but when you get it certainly has some truth to it and we might just luck out if we get a good rain now and then a Spring under our belt.

The lack of rainfall seems to be a world wide phenomenon. It doesn't matter who you talk to, everyone seems to say the same thing - the last 10 years have been dry. We went to Cambodia in 2007 and even in this tropical country they were saying the wet seasons are no longer wet like they used to be. And I thought the tropics were meant to be getting wetter. Climate change? Lack of sunspots? Who knows what the reasons are.

One thing that does concern me in this whole issue is the minimal press resource depletion gets. Recently *The Weekly Times* reported that Australian and Swedish researchers have predicted that the world will exhaust phosphorous reserves by the end of this century and reach "peak phosphorous" by 2033 - not much over 2 decades away. As a major contributor to grain yield, phosphorous is vital to maintaining world food production yet we hear so little about these serious issues. While forecasters tell us we face unprecedented demand growth over the next 20 years, production could be reversing equally dramatically.

The issue of peak oil, and practically all other resources, including water, becoming depleted needs more planning and action from our governments.

With all the talk on whether climate change is happening, isn't happening, is man made or natural, the one certainty we do know is that resources are finite. Unless we can lessen demand and come up with an alternative way of going about things we face a bleak future. The view that human ingenuity has triumphed over all adversity in the past and therefore there is nothing to worry about in the future has got a ring of arrogance about it that is concerning. Particularly as we have never faced declining resources and exponential demand growth on this scale at the same time ever before.

Ram Sales

The Spring ram selling season is upon us and we have an exceptional lineup of rams coming up for auction and private sale at Rosevale, Hay on the 22nd October as well as at Cooma on 11th November. Private selections will be available at the conclusion of the auctions and the following week or by appointment at any time. Private sale rams will be priced at \$1000, \$750 and \$500. All rams have been bioclipped this year and really do present very well. The sensational Hazeldean 2 .9558 continues to set the pace with many outstanding sons for sale. There are some exciting sons of other sires too including 2.8033, 6.5112 and a smaller number by outside sires such as Nerstane 4.222.

We are confident you will be impressed by this year's offering.

JIM LITCHFIELD



The Hazeldean Northern Performance Bull sale saw 172 bulls sold for a 100% clearance, topping at \$12,000 for the Angus and average of \$4787 and the Senegus topping at \$8,000 for a \$3,900 average.



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The Hazeldean Letter

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The Hazeldean Letter

Peter and Margaret Redden have been purchasing Angus bulls from Hazeldean for a dozen years

Success in SA's south east

Peter and Margaret Redden, in the south-east of South Australia, at "Georges Troughs" near Kingston, have been using Hazeldean genetics in their 220-strong breeding herd since purchasing their first Hazeldean females from the Hazeldean commercial female sale at Cooma in 2002.

Many of the older cows have been retained to build numbers, but now 50 to 60 heifers are retained and the same number of older cows are sold off annually.

Peter is impressed by the longevity, fertility and constitution of the Hazeldean females.

"We bought nine year old cows and they are still here at 15 years old – if they were structurally not right they would not live to 15 and still be producing," Mr Redden said.

But there are strict criteria for the cows retained: they must all rear a live calf each year.

Calving is split between February-March and July-August to make the most of their bulls, and maximise selling options for the progeny.

The autumn drop calves are often marketed as vealers and the top 20 of the drop were sold in the paddock in December to Hardwick Meats, Kyneton, Victoria, with a curfewed weight of 380 kilograms.

"If we can get a 320kg to 350kg average and \$650 at nine months of age we would do it every time", Mr. Redden said.

For the past 12 years they have purchased the majority of their Angus bulls from Hazeldean and have been particularly impressed by their quiet temperament and ease of calving.

"We sent steers a while ago to Swift Australia and

they curfewed at 95 per cent of their weight compared with another breeder's cattle on the same truck which went 89 percent – the six per cent can only have been temperament."

Mr Redden decided on using Hazeldean bloodlines due to the stud's large genetic base, and the depth of breeding in the Hazeldean herd. They have paid slightly above the average at Hazeldean's SA bull sales and are looking for structurally sound bulls with good carcase attributes.

Excerpt from "The Land" August 09

(Below): Peter and Margaret Redden with their Hazeldean blood females at "Georges Troughs".



South Australian Beef Cattle Assessment School

Some 70 participants attended this event in Lucindale, SA in August. Run by the State Angus Committee, it provided two days of practical and theoretical instruction on cattle assessment and management. This year, the course was on breeding and fertility, the focus next year will be on slaughter and feedlot cattle.

British and European bred cattle were provided by local properties and transported in the Hazeldean truck for judging.

Courses are run in all states and benefit everyone involved in beef production.

For more SA course information contact:
Guy Cunningham (gumbowie1@bigpond.com)
and for other states contact: Emma Weatherly,
Youth and Extension Manager Angus Australia:
(emma@angusaustralia.com.au)



(Above): Participants visually assessing fat score at the South Australian Beef Cattle Assessment School in August.

CPRS/ETS and Agriculture

This issue has started to get some serious coverage in mainstream and agribusiness media. The current government will not rule agriculture out of consideration with a decision to be made in 2013. The biggest problem with the Rudd government treatment of agriculture (and there are many) is the all-stick-and-no-carrot model they utilize which is consistent with their eagerness to get on board the Kyoto Protocol.

Farm business will already have to absorb increased costs when the CPRS is introduced, this will flow from pricing carbon in fuel, transport and fertilizer inputs. If animal emissions are included, the impact gets really serious.

Reducing our net emissions is already on

track. Reduced tillage, increased perennial pastures and pasture cropping can all contribute. The recent run of dry years has seen better conservation of ground cover and soil health than in previous droughts.

Beef and lamb can be produced in the future with a smaller carbon footprint - animal diet, rumen function and age structure of animals will all have a part to play. Encouragingly grain feeding can reduce carbon emissions per kg of product.

Our primary production is currently the most efficient method of turning water and CO₂ into commodities that markets want to buy. The recent collapse of Great Southern and Timbercorp are good examples of how land use and productivity are compromised when

market forces are corrupted by legislation (in this case tax minimization). **Taxing animal emissions would have a much bigger impact and be the worst possible avenue of reducing net emissions from agriculture.**

None of our export competitors are considering similar options with the exception of NZ. It would make our exports uncompetitive, our domestic market vulnerable and does nothing to reduce net emissions.

Agriculture is one of the few industries that can generate significant carbon credits as well as emissions, it is time that policy makers woke up to that fact and stopped jeopardizing an important part of Australia's economy.

GUY CUNNINGHAM

'Lakala' cattle kick goals at Naracoorte sales

Steve and Glenda Smith live at "Lakala", near Lucindale, in South Australia's South East, the region known as the beef capital of South Australia. Here, the summers are hot, winters cold, and if wet, the land is subject to inundation in the winter months. The average annual rainfall is 600mm.

The Smiths run a mixed farming operation on their 2 blocks of mainly flat country interspersed with some range country. Both Steve and Glenda come from families with a long history in the beef industry, their families being in the South East for over 40 years. Steve and Glenda pursued careers in Adelaide but purchased Lakala in 2001 and moved back permanently in 2002.

The Smiths run a mix of sheep and cattle on approximately a 50:50 split with some forestry pines and blue gums. Lakala, the home property, runs the sheep operation of 1400 mainly merino ewes producing 1st and 2nd Cross lambs.

The cattle herd numbers some 300 breeders of mostly Hazeldean blood. The family started using Hazeldean bulls in 1996, when Hazeldean had its first bull sale at Lucindale. The Smiths have been pleased with the increased fertility in the herd which is now mostly Hazeldean blood, and have 98% conception in the mature cows.

"The cattle are quiet, and the females are really good mothers which I think combined with the lower stocking rates enables us to

turn off calves from their mothers at such good weights and condition", says Steve.

The Smiths aim to turn off autumn born calves direct from their mothers with steers weighing approx 350 kgs. The Angus steer calves and 2nd grade Angus heifers are sold at the Naracoorte pre-Christmas weaner sales, the bulk purchased by finishers. The Angus-cross vealers are sold to the fat market and the balance are weaned in early December and sold later when they reach approximately 360 to 380 kgs. The Lakala herd is now EU accredited which Steve hopes will increase his market options.

Last year the Lakala Angus steers and heifers topped the Naracoorte pre-Christmas weaner sale with the top pen of 28 steers weighing 387kg and selling for \$730 per head - this was the top price of any Angus steers sold over the entire weaner market period December to February. The heifers also topped the sale at \$520 per head.

When asked if he has any concerns, Steve says that he is "a little concerned about what might come into play for the cattle industry in regards to CO₂ emissions and the push by some groups to persuade consumers to avoid beef".

(Below): Steve Smith and Guy Cunningham on site.





Bio-clipping Hazeldean rams



1
Nets are put on the rams at the same time as they are injected with a synthetic protein that causes a break in the wool.



2
The nets are left on for a period of 4 weeks until the fleece has regrown sufficiently to give good cover, otherwise the rams would be pink and "naked" and prone to sunburn and/or exposure.



3
The nets are then cut and the fleece and net removed as one....



4
...it peels easily away....



5
Fleece and bodyweight are recorded at the same time.



6
Leaving a freshly defleeced ram with no nicks and cuts!

Royal Flying Doctor Service auction steer

After racking up some serious frequent flyer points with the RFDS Guy and Sarah Cunningham and family decided to square the ledger by donating one of their steers. Originally slated for auction in February as a led steer, the beast was eventually sold on-line to Richard Gunner, Coorong Angus beef.

The local agricultural school at Lucindale did an excellent job preparing and feeding the steer prior to sale, being grain fed for 120 days. Transaustralia Livestock delivered the steer to local processor Dalriada. After achieving an excellent tenderness score in its MSA grading, premium steaks from the steer were served as part of a promotion at the Stag Hotel in Adelaide for the Clipsal V8 event.



Ronald Herbert Miners

We were saddened recently by the sudden death of Ron Miners. Ron was manager of Myalla for 28 years until 1995. The eldest son of Billy and Barbara Miners, he was born at Biggam, Hazeldean's Rocky Plain property near Berridale, where he grew up with his 3 brothers and 3 sisters.

The Litchfield family has benefited greatly from the input of the Miners family over many years, in fact over 3 generations since 1898 and Ron's contribution was on a par with the highest levels of management and stockmanship. Ron started working for Hazeldean at Biggam at the age of 14, progressed to cattle overseer at Hazeldean and finally manager of Myalla, the 13,000 acre run south east of Hazeldean purchased by the company in 1967. Apart from a stint shearing and working in Melbourne earlier on, he continued with the company all his working life until he retired and then did casual work for a number of years afterwards. He always took an

interest in Hazeldean, its stock and people attending most if not all of the on-property sales; the last only 9 days before he died. Ron was a gentle, proud man with an amazing affinity for animals – an outstanding stockman and horseman, he trained many other staff, jackaroos and family members in the finer points of stockmanship and management.

He was an active member of the Anglican Church in Cooma and an admired and respected community member. Ron was in good health right up to the time of his unexpected death and attended the Hazeldean Spring Bull sale shortly before. Although shocked by his sudden passing, we know that this proud and capable man would have preferred to depart this life in no other way.

Our thoughts are very much with Rosaline and family during this difficult time.

(Right): Ron at the 2008 Hazeldean Merino Ram Sale.



Merinos in Kenya

In December 2008 we visited Michael and Charlie Dyer who live at the base of Mt. Kenya in the Laikipia region of northern Kenya. Their properties are right on the equator, but very high - 6,000 to 8,500 feet, so the climate is generally one of warm days and cool nights all year round.

Both Michael and Charlie spent time jackarooing at Hazeldean more than 20 years ago. Michael lives at Borana, a 30,000 acre property which in addition to a cattle and sheep enterprise runs as a wildlife conservancy. In 1993, Michael and his wife Nikki built a luxury safari lodge where visitors can enjoy viewing the extensive variety of game either in Land Rover game viewing vehicles, on foot with a guide, or what Borana Lodge has probably become best known for - horseback safaris. The horses are retired polo ponies (the Dyer family have been keen polo players for generations) and they specialise in fly camps where you ride to a destination, camp for the night and move on the next day. But it is not like Aussie camping - it is true safari luxury!

We also visited Charlie Dyer who lives about an hour away with his wife Sara on another property, Kisima, where he grows crops - mainly wheat, as well as producing flowers in extensive hot houses for the European market. In addition he does some forestry and, we were delighted to see, a merino wool enterprise. With a Kenyan village close by, the Dyers employ over 400 within the various enterprises and the family also support the local villages by building schools and operating a medical facility.

The merino operation is now much smaller these days, partly because of increased cropping in the area and the ubiquitous decline in wool prices. Nevertheless the sheep are still going strong and so we inspected the rams and had a good look at a few groups of ewes and lambs. Wool removal is still done with the blades and pressed using an old hand press.

We can recommend Borana Lodge as an unforgettable experience for the whole family.
www.borana.com

(Below): Jim inspects rams at Kisima while James, Bea and Iona and Charlie Dyer (background) look on.



Do we have your email address?

Just send us an email and we'll be able to add you to our on-line database for sales info and news updates...

admin@hazeldean.com.au



All stock on Rosevale in the Riverina have done very well on the feed from the winter rains

From Hazeldean Riverina

Although a dry start to 2009 the Riverina experienced substantial rainfall throughout June which gave us the hope of a long awaited Spring break, but unfortunately yet again the follow up rains cruelly have not ensued which puts us back in that position of heading into the Summer months with feed in short supply.

On the livestock front all stock on Rosevale have done exceptionally well on the feed that has grown from the little rain we have received. It is encouraging to see the wool market finally starting to show some upwards responses and that in combination with the stellar run in mutton and lamb prices currently being experienced has put merino sheep enterprises into very profitable times (subject to rain). We believe that the genetic package that we produce in our rams here at Hazeldean allows our clients to take full advantage of all trait markets; this allows our clients sheep to reach the most profitable outcome.

The 2009 Riverina Ram Sale will be held on the 22nd of October at Rosevale with an auction team of 100 rams comprising of 80 Cooma bred rams and 20 Riverina bred rams. As part of sale day this year in conjunction with "Making More from Sheep", we will be hosting an SGA ram selection workshop in the morning including complimentary breakfast. The Riverina rams this year have progressed very well and despite what has been a tough year seasonally they will present in exceptional order. In particular of the rams on offer the progeny of Hazeldean 2.8033 have been pleasing; his progeny offer a terrific balance of fleece weight, fibre diameter and body weight traits on an uncomplicated plain style of ram. The Cooma bred rams have just arrived at Rosevale and although that little bit younger have grown out very well.

This year all sale rams from both properties have been bio-clipped. This process has definite advantages in the progress and health of the sheep; in particular the growth rates experienced post de-netting, the evenness in the ram's presentation, and the capacity it allows to class out undesirable skin types.

At lamb marking I made the decision to use Tri Solfen on all mulsed lambs to ascertain whether there was a noticeable benefit. I had been to information presentations on the product, and also heard from various producers who had used it. Some thought they could see no benefit and some swore by the product and would never mules without it. Admittedly a bit of a sceptic, and put off by the added cost associated with using the product on top of the normal lamb marking expenses, I was very surprised by the benefits it displayed. In the extensive conditions we mark lambs at Rosevale we found that lambs were mothering up a lot quicker, allowing the time to get them back into their paddock to be cut, saving precious labour time and giving the lamb the best chance especially in larger sized paddocks.

Of the stud lambs marked this year the progeny of Hazeldean 7.934 were in particular very pleasing and will be ones to keep an eye on in the future.

As I write this we are currently in the midst of artificially inseminating our Angus and Senegus cows. Of the Angus calves dropped this year at Rosevale we have seen some lovely muscled bull calves by Hazeldean and outside sires and of the Senegus calves our resident sire Hazeldean Hurricane has continued to sire consistent easy doing types in both his bull and heifer calves. The feedback from various destinations that our Senegus bulls have gone to has continued to be very favourable and their adaptability to a diversity of environments has been extremely pleasing, all we need now is for McDonalds to release the McSenegus burger.

The annual Hazeldean display at Hamilton Sheep-vention was very busy with a mixture of clients and other sheep and cattle enthusiasts visiting our site. Predictably one of the days was typical August Hamilton weather which made it very conducive to sharing a glass of red and a snag in the shelter of our tent. It was pleasing to receive many compliments on the stock we displayed and to gain feedback on how our stocks are performing for clients. It was interesting to meet a number of New Zealand merino breeders this year that had knowledge of our genetics and very similar objectives within their own flocks.

For those that are interested we will be hosting a Low Stress Stockhandling school at Rosevale on the 27th and 28th of October. For details regarding cost and available places please see: www.lss.net.au or contact me on 0427931177.

I wish all readers the best for what's left of 2009 and hope the season is being kind to you.

RICHARD CANNON



(Above): Richard Cannon and Jim select the 2009 Hazeldean Riverina Ram Sale team.

Meet Hazeldean Hurricane 5.251

Hazeldean Hurricane's semen is now available.

Hazeldean Hurricane 5.251 is the standout Senegus sire in our breeding program. He is by PRR 2110L, a bull who consistently sires high fertility daughters, typically reaching puberty early and conceiving to calve at 2 years of age with no assistance.

Hurricane is a large framed bull with a quiet nature and the renowned easy doing "browsing" ability which has made Senegus cattle so well suited to our hot, low rainfall rangeland conditions. He is a slick coated bull and therefore possesses the tick and heat tolerance potential that goes with this trait.

We recommend Hurricane to breeders looking to improve beef quality in hot/dry as well as tropical

regions where conventional Bos Taurus may be unsuitable. Hurricane offers the best in Senegus genetics and will suit many breeding program.



2009 Sales Round-up



Clients inspect the bulls at Gumbowie at the Hazeldean 2009 SA bull sale where 31 bulls averaged \$3150 and topped at \$6000.



Hazeldean female sale 2009 where spirited bidding saw the 475 commercial and APR females top at \$1220 for the 2.5 year old PTIC heifers with an overall average of \$710 for the age groups ranging from 8.5 yr old cows to weaner calves.



Hazeldean Spring Bull Sale - all bulls were young, 2008 autumn drop, topping at \$8,000 for a \$3900 average. Every bull was +83 or better for 600 day weight EBV.



Barbara Logan and her mother Elsie, Dovedale, Maryborough, QLD, with their manager Clint and Libby Litchfield at the picturesque setting for the Hazeldean Northern Performance Bull Sale at Pinora Sales complex, Jackson, QLD.



Jason Southwell, inspects rams with Chris Komor and Tony Hill at the 2008 Hazeldean Merino ram sale.

Hazeldean Merinos Spring Ram Sales 2009

Riverina Ram Sale at Rosevale, Hay October 22 at 1pm

80 Cooma bred rams
and 20 Hay bred rams

Private selection grades available at conclusion
of sale - \$1000, \$750 and \$500 grades.

MAKING MORE FROM SHEEP

Practical Ram Selection workshop
at Rosevale, Hay on Thursday
22 Oct. prior to the Hazeldean
Riverina Ram Sale

Making More From Sheep is a hands-on workshop
for commercial flock breeders - both wool and meat
sheep. Take away practical skills, backed by the latest
technology, to select rams that will breed the "best"
progeny for your enterprise. Presented by: Allan Casey
and Sally Ware, Dept of Industry & Investment.

7.30am BBQ breakfast

8.30am start - 10.30am finish

Register now: Sally Ware on 6993 1608

www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au

Cooma Ram Sale at Hazeldean, Cooma November 11 at 1pm

150 Cooma bred rams

Private selection grades available
at conclusion of sale - \$1000,
\$750 and \$500 grades.



(Right): Riverina Sale Rams 2009.

Hazeldean Angus Sales 2010

Hazeldean Angus South Australian Bull Sale

65 Stud and APR Bulls

Tuesday February 13th

Gumbowie, Willalooka, SA

Bulls and females will be on display
during the South East Beef Field Days,
Tuesday February 9th at Gumbowie
from 9.00am - 5.00pm

Hazeldean Autumn Bull & Female Sale

Friday March 26th

Hazeldean, Cooma, NSW

Hazeldean Northern Performance Bull Sale

180 Angus & Senegus Bulls

Thursday August 12th

Pinora Sales Complex, Jackson, QLD

Hazeldean Spring Bull Sale

80 Stud & APR Bulls

Tuesday 2nd September

Hazeldean, Cooma, NSW

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